

EDITORIALS

Pay for Councilmen

A number of responsible Torrance citizens are talking seriously of supporting a city policy of paying members of the City Council a fixed salary during their terms of office—something which the city has not done to this date.

Latest group to look into the measure is the Chamber of Commerce, whose board of directors has named a committee to study the proposition that Councilmen be paid.

The HERALD believes that members of the Torrance City Council will earn any reasonable sum paid them out of city funds. The task of determining policy for a city which has undergone the explosive growth this city has in recent years is not an easy one—and it is not always a popular job.

Torrance would be setting no precedent in paying its Councilmen. In fact, the city would be taking itself out of a very exclusive category. Only three other Southern California cities do not pay their Councilmen—Redondo Beach, Ventura, and Monrovia.

Pay for Councilmen in other cities ranges from \$200 a month in Long Beach and \$100 a month in Huntington Park, to \$10 a meeting in Burbank and Glendale. Most cities pay \$50 or \$75 a month to their Councilmen.

Those salaries are little enough to hand a man who gives up a large portion of his leisure time and, many times, much of his time on the job to serve the city.

The job of serving the city on its Council is getting to be too much to ask able and competent men to do it for nothing.

They should be paid.

Glorious Fourth—'55 Style

The old-fashioned glorious Fourth has lost some of its lustre, but, it still is an occasion for rejoicing on the part of young and old. Most everyone enjoys a holiday and this one is stretched into a three-day event that finds thousands able to take to the open road for distant places, a feat impossible one generation ago.

Some American communities continue to hold to the traditional civic observance of what, after all, is the most important historic event in the American calendar. In the face of competition from scores of recreational attractions, some communities doggedly hold to the tradition of serious patriotic treatment of the Fourth, combined with fireworks and festival.

Like so many other California communities, Torrance has no official observance of Independence Day. Hundreds of local motorists took off Friday evening and will join the traffic jams tonight on their homeward trek.

A few decades ago the fire cracker was the lethal instrument that had the safety statisticians worried. Today it is the automobile and let us hope the National Safety Council will be wrong in its prediction that hundreds will have been killed over this three-day holiday spree.

With all the delightful features of the modern Fourth of July, let's not forget to give a thought to the rugged individualists who risked their lives and fortunes to make a Declaration of Independence. Let's remember that the men who signed that hallowed document weren't the kind who wanted a government that would give them something for nothing and who believed, with every fiber of their active minds and bodies, that freedom had to be fought and worked for to be enjoyed.

The Squirrel Cage

By REID BUNDY

We don't claim any credit for this—we read it first in the Lions Club bulletin for this week: The seven ages of women are infant, child, girl, young woman, young woman, young woman, poised social leader.

Nancy Yewell of Palos Verdes dug this one up somewhere to go along with our quip last week about Lola, who is mentioned prominently in a popular song. Nancy says that anything Lola wants, Abbey rents. (Sounds like a good plug.)

There may or may not be any significance to this, but we received a letter here a couple of days ago from the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau addressed to the editor on the outside. The salutation inside started out, "Dear Rabbit Grower."

Mayor Albert Isen is blushing. Members of the Torrance City Council were brought together the other evening for a portrait to be used in the new Chamber of Commerce directory. Although not particularly sensitive about his sparse crop of hair, the Mayor sat upright, head back so the light of the photographer's flash equipment would not bounce back to the camera and spoil the picture. Instead, the light bounced back from his glasses—ruined both exposures. Friday, the photographer got the Council together again for a retake.

William R. Sullivan postcards to say traffic congestion can be solved very easily if we so desire. "Just keep making the drivers' license code more rigid until the number of cars fit the size of our roads," he says.

That Independence Declaration



Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

It usually takes a spring evening with its balmy air and the first breath of the vernal equinox to make folks think about old faces and places.

And so it was that Betty and I suddenly thought of "Gabby" Harrison, the high school student, who used to work for us, and we recalled our sales of laughter when young "Gabby" would stand before us, plant his two spindly legs solidly apart, and then start off on an uninterrupted ramble of conversation that ended only when we pleadingly begged him to desist before our tortured sides would split.

"Gabby" didn't mean to be funny. He was quite serious and he simply voiced his frank opinion with an alert young mind. He seemed to feel it his bounden duty to keep talking and to keep us quiet.

Betty and I had an idea it would be a pleasant experience to recall "Gabby" Harrison from out of our past. Anyway, we felt we were due for a good laugh and this reunion could prove to be an invigorating spring tonic.

I soon had "Gabby" on the phone in warm and earnest conversation and I learned our young man was now married and the father of two lovely children. He graciously accepted my invitation for a visit to our home the coming Saturday.

Betty and I decided not to invite any other friends. We wanted "Gabby" all to ourselves and we were afraid that mixed company would nullify "Gabby's" humor.

On Saturday night, the doorbell rang and there was our gay young friend with his charming wife. The passing years had made very little change in "Gabby's" appearance.

He smiled the same bashful way, he wore his thick snook of blonde hair parted on the side, and he proved himself as likeable as ever.

We made the young couple comfortable and, after serving the usual refreshments, I felt it was time to induce "Gabby's" delightful laugh routines.

Without a giveaway trace of my plans, I asked: "What do you think, 'Gabby,' about President Eisenhower's chances for reelection?" This question is usually guaranteed in balloting circles to start any prolific party man on a two or three-hour conversational trend. Betty and I waited with bated breath.

These were "Gabby's" torrent of words: "He'll win easily."

Quizzically, Betty and I looked at each other. "Hastily, I continued: "Who do you think will win the pennant this year?"

No red-blooded American can answer that question in less than five thousand words. But, "Gabby" did it. He said: "It's a wide open race and anyone can win."

My chin dropped, and my brow must have wrinkled quite noticeably. I wasn't getting any wordage and Betty and I weren't getting any laughs.

I continued stubbornly: "You have two children, 'Gabby,' and we need more schools for our kids but I personally refuse to vote for the School Bonds."

Patently, I waited for the avalanche of criticism. Finally, it came. "Man, you're crazy."

Painlessly and crushingly, the evening dragged on. The atmosphere became cramped and tense. Finally, we were at the door saying our goodbyes and mercifully "Gabby" and his wife were soon gone.

Betty and I dropped into the nearest chairs. At first, we looked at each other in sheer disbelief.

But then we realized the valuable lesson we had learned. Memories are like exquisite and sparkling gems—stored away in our minds and meant only to be peeped at for fleeting and exalted moments of exciting pleasure. But, once removed in an effort to make them physical, our valuable gems suddenly crumble into the powdered and dissipated dust of stark reality.

You've read stories about the landlord hanging out a sign reading: "Apartment For Rent. No Children," but did you ever read the one about the landlord who hung out just such a sign, heard his doorbell ring, answered it and found a seven-year-old girl standing there? Said the youngster: "I don't have any children; just my mother and father." I'd like to report that the landlord softened in the gay light of such precious humor and practically dragged the family inside to sign the lease, but he grunted like all old grumps should grunt and quickly slammed the door in the young girl's dismayed face.

It never fails. Every oil well or artesian well driller I've ever met have always seemed bored with their job.

Folks, are you complaining that your son isn't keeping company with a girl fit to be his girl? If so, I'd like to make a suggestion. Perhaps that's the best girl he can get with the kind of car you've got.

What certain movie star, known for his tall opinion of himself, was making a personal appearance in a Washington, D.C., theater? Walking offstage to the whisper of a handful of applause, the handclapping suddenly increased in volume and reached an exhilarating thunder. The movie star took seven bows before the master of ceremonies could fight his way to the center of the stage and thank President Eisenhower for attending the performance.

What I personally like about married life—you get two points of view for the price of one.

Next time you hear a man insulting his wife, just remember he's only trying to bring her down to his size. Two can live cheaper than one, but who wants to live that cheap?

Next time you see a woman insulting her husband, just remind her she picked out the bargain herself.

Which reminds me about the fellow who fought his best against being drafted. He claimed poor eyesight and brought his wife along to prove it. She proved it alright. The draft board took one look at her and let the poor fellow go.

And if you, lady, are complaining your husband is a book worm, just consider the sorry plight of the woman with a husband who is just an ordinary worm.

Things are so bad now that a dollar saved is 50 cents lost. \$byle now!

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

COPENHAGEN—(Special to the HERALD)—During the past few weeks I have talked with Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden, Mendès-France, French Premier Edgar Faur . . . and the top diplomatic representatives of some dozen nations in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen and other vital centers of Europe. I have also addressed audiences throughout Europe and talked with manufacturers, merchants, missionaries, newsmen and the man-in-the-street. Many of these people I have known for years and regard them as personal friends. I visit them in their homes and break bread with them. It is not merely a professional relationship between a reporter and a subject for interview. Some of them are prominent outside of politics, like Madame Marie Leduc, founder of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs in Europe 25 years ago, who celebrated her 80th birthday with Mrs. Morley and me at the Trois Marées in Paris.

The above list represent a fair cross-section of important and average people that a reporter can visit with on such short notice. The consensus of this public and private opinion is to the effect that (1) the U.S. is on top of the heap again in Europe (2) that Allied solidarity against Communism was never so strong (3) that peace in Europe was never closer than it is now (4) that people are getting back on their feet, firmly after some ten years of austerity, fear and hopelessness. Without exception they refer to the U.S. as a loyal partner in this economic and political revival and give due credit to the American people for their generosity and friendship. Reports that filter to the U. S. through some tourists that "we have no friends in Europe" are due to ignorance, misunderstandings between individuals, and have no basis of fact. The European community holds the American people in sincere affection and high esteem.

There is a striking mood of confidence and self-assurance in Europe based on the economic facts of life today. Over 300,000,000 Europeans have been lifted to a level of good living (not exactly prosperity) not experienced in 50 years. Not a sign of inflation anywhere. In France, for example, mismanagement has been purchased up to 500 to the dollar in the blackmarket since 1950 is quoted by the cheaters at close to the 350 official rate. Add this economic stability to the security provided under the North Atlantic Treaty organization, and you have a re-creation of confidence that puts "spring to the step" and a smile on the face that was missing for too long in the bleak aftermath of war, tragedy and human convulsion.

Take industrial production figures, for example . . . they exceed the peak in the following countries as follows: In France they are 28% above the highest peak . . . in Austria 20% . . . in Norway 30% . . . in the Saar 48% . . . in Belgium 29% . . . in Netherlands 34% . . . in Britain 27% . . . in Sweden 18% . . . in Italy 34% . . . in Greece 54% . . . in Turkey 38% . . . in Western Germany 72% . . . in Switzerland 23% . . . in Spain 20% . . . in Ireland 41%. Back in 1948, the first year of the Marshall plan, Europe's exports were about \$1,500,000,000 a month. Today, some seven years later, they are over \$3,000,000,000 a month . . . a phenomenal annual rate of about \$36,000,000,000.

Farm production is up 24% which means food output is ahead of population growth of about 13%. There are some dark spots in food production as in Turkey, Yugoslavia and Italy, caused by the drought and lack of foresight. But in most of Europe it is above pre-war.

Home building in Europe is the highest in history. This is stimulated by several causes. In one country it's the easing of credit . . . in another wage increases . . . in another reduction of taxes . . . in another increased production and employment. The low points are in Italian shipbuilding which is down 20% . . . Swiss watchmaking, which is 12% lower . . . Danish textiles about 10% lower. But these have been more than offset with the booming tourist trade which is the highest in Europe's history, and makes up as much as 25% of some nation's economy.

Holland is a tourist's paradise by contrast with France. A beautiful room, twin beds, spacious bath with double wash bowls at Amsterdam's famous American hotel, overlooking the Aesteliner, is only 25 guilders per day (about \$8.75) . . . a first class 6 course dinner at the famous "Fine Files" for about \$3.50. In France for the above accommodations you will pay \$18 per day . . . for the dinner \$10.

The Netherlands (Holland) between June and September has an average temperature in the 60's . . . the high about 72, the low about 55. Much of Holland is below sea level. It has a population of about 10,000,000, or the size of New York City and Detroit. In size it's about the area of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Amsterdam, the capital, compares with Washington, D. C. with a population of about 855,000. Holland is a constitutional monarchy ruled by Queen Juliana and parliament of two chambers. There are more bicycles and more handshaking here than in any country I know. The electric voltage is 200: 50 cycle. The monetary unit in the Netherlands is the guilder or florin, worth about 26 cents. Time difference six hours later than Eastern Standard time, Amsterdam is the place to buy diamonds, and solid gold jewelry . . . silverware, china, leatherware are 40 per cent less than England or France.

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